

SECTION: REMARKS

This reply is submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §132 and 37 C.F.R. §1.111. The Office Action was carefully considered by the undersigned attorney and applicant. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Summary of the Office Action.

Claims 1-20 were pending.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Kimura (4,578,983)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Newall (2,410,742)

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Balyasny (4,567,650)

Claims 11-14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Ching (6,510,722)

Claims 11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Putnam (5,411,521)

Claims 11, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Kumeth (4,644,777)

Claims 5 and 15 were objected to but found to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 10 and 20 were allowed.

2. Discussion.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the finding of allowable subject matter in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 9. This claim was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended Claim 9 to remove the note redundant language. For this reason, the claim particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claim 1. Although applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections, they have amended the claim to expedite this application to finality. The amendment incorporates all of the limitations of dependent claim 5. Claim 5 was objected to, but was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim. The amended claim is believed to be patentable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Applicants note that, amended claim 1 is a version of originally submitted dependent claim 5, merely rewritten in independent form. Thus, no limiting amendment is made and no limitation on the scope of the language of dependent claim 5 is intended or should be considered made. Dependent **claim 5** is cancelled in view of this amendment.

Claim 11. Applicants amended the claim to incorporate all of the limitations of dependent claim 15 and intervening dependent claim 14. Claim 15 was objected to, but was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (and any intervening claims). The amended claim is believed to be patentable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Applicants note that amended claim 11 is a version of originally submitted dependent claim 15, merely rewritten in independent form. Thus, no limiting amendment is made and no

limitation on the scope of the language of dependent claim 15 is intended or should be considered made. Dependent **claims 14 and 15** are cancelled in view of this amendment.

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 12, 13, and 16-19. These claims are all dependent upon claim 1 or 11; each such claim adds at least one limitation to the elements of the base claim and is therefore deemed to be allowable with such base and any intervening claim, at least for this reason.

3. Conclusion.

The claims pending after this amendment are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. The amendments are believed to be supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed. It is believed that this case is now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that telephone communication would advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to call at the number below.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a), provided a Petition is not submitted separately.

Please charge any fee due not paid by a check or credit card provided herewith, and/or charge any underpayment in any fee, and/or credit any overpayment in fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Any fees due are calculated as follows:

Number

Fee

TOTAL claims remaining over that previously paid for:

None

\$0

INDEPENDENT claims remaining over that previously paid for:

None

\$0

SUM claim fees:

\$0

EXTENSION fees:

\$225

OTHER fees:

\$0

TOTAL AMOUNT (if any)

\$225

☐ Paid by enclosed check.

☒ Paid by enclosed Credit Card Payment Form(s) PTO-2038.

Respectfully submitted,



Date:

3-7-05

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REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), Applicant(s) requests that a 2 month extension be granted in which to file the attached communication from the applicant(s).

A \$ 225 payment, for a ☒ small ☐ large entity, is enclosed for the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17.

Please charge any additional or underpayment in fee due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3-7-05

Joel D. Skinner, Jr.

Reg. No. 33,786